

## SARL NEWS SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

### SILENT KEY

We regret to announce the passing of OM Alan Ansel, ex-ZS2AJ, on Thursday evening, December 23rd. Alan has been a long time member of PEARS, but due to lengthy ill health, he had not been active on amateur radio, and consequently lapsed his license a few years back. He, however, continued his membership with the PE Amateur Radio Society and was a regular at the society's monthly old-timers "wrinkly rave".

To his family and wife, Vicky, and friends, sincere condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

### AMENDED RADIO REGULATIONS

### DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Please note that the SARL office has already closed and will re-open again on the 10th January.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news items of interest to amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

### AMENDED RADIO REGULATIONS

At long last, the news that we have all been waiting for, the amendments to the Radio Regulations have been received by the Government Printer but, due to the Christmas weekend, will be printed on Tuesday 28th December and will be available for purchase on Thursday the 30th. For all, that is a good prospect to start the new year with. For what has been achieved through the efforts of the SARL over a long period of time, it is a good reason to say thanks to the SARL by becoming a member of the SARL and so strengthen its ranks in the interest of all radio amateurs in the country.

The new date for the PEARS' "Welcome to HF" competition will probably be announced soon; in the meantime, get ready for it.

## DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Since there is a local lull in amateur radio news this time of the year, we make use of the opportunity to bring you some news on amateur radio happenings in other parts of the world. The following has been gleaned from WIA News:

### WIA NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is now a fully fledged national body, and not a federation of Divisions as previously. The Council of the New South Wales Division signed an Implementation Agreement with the national WIA at its meeting on December 10, 2004. In doing so, it was the last of the former Divisions under the previous federal structure to formally define its role for the future, and also its relationship with the national WIA. The former VK2 Division will continue but under a different name and has now agreed to encourage its members to become members of the WIA. It took 2 days less than a year, but Monday 13th marked the formation of the interest group who started the planning to achieve a single WIA. A lot has been achieved in twelve months all due to the efforts of dedicated people both on the board and with assistance of many others from the former Divisions.

### PROPOSED NEW LICENCE STRUCTURE IN VK LAND

Staying in Australia, their ACA (Australian Communications Authority) is in the process of developing the regulatory framework for the new three tier amateur licensing regime, which are expected to be implemented around May 2005. The WIA has been working with the ACA on the syllabus development for the Foundation licence. The syllabus is being developed by a four member working group of the WIA.

### BPL AT THE WAR FRONT IN VK LAND

It has been announced that the WIA Board had adopted a report prepared by its specialist group, the WIA BPL Working Group, charged with the responsibility of monitoring and analysing the development of BPL. The report is a comprehensive review of BPL in the Australian context and it is believed that it will be of interest to the power industry, prospective BPL operators, BPL equipment providers, ISPs, the telecommunications industry, radiocommunications users, and government regulators of consumer protection, competition, radiocommunications and telecommunications. The report contains a description of BPL, its advantages, disadvantages and risks from the perspectives of the relevant stakeholders. It outlines the Australian regulatory environment, and broadband delivery, today and as it develops. Applications of HF radio communications are identified and described, and a short summary of overseas trials of BPL technologies is provided. The Report concludes that the WIA is not opposed to BPL per se, but is opposed to conduct that results in substantial interference with radiocommunications or substantial disruption or disturbance of radiocommunications. The WIA believes that is fortunate that BPL is not the only way ahead, as it is confident that advances in emerging technologies

will meet Australia's growing need for Internet access.

#### PROGRESS IN INDIA

In a significant move, the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Govt. of India convened a joint meeting of the different Ministries, Government Departments and different Amateur Radio bodies in India on December 6. The meeting which was held at the behest of the National Disaster Management Wing of the Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at removing the bottlenecks of ham radio promotion in India and to bring up a 'National Roadmap' for ham radio promotion. Brainstorming sessions on the following aspects were held: 1. Amateur Radio in Education (School/College/Technical Institutes); 2. Amateur Radio for Volunteer Groups under youth development schemes; 3. Amateur Radio Promotion and related Legal/Security/Regulatory aspects.

The meeting was informed that consideration for an amendment of the Indian Wireless Telegraph (Amateur Service) Rules is in the pipeline and there may be just two categories of ham radio licences in India, 'Restricted' and a 'General Grade' licence. The meeting was convened and presided over by the Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, who strongly felt that the grievances of amateur radio enthusiasts in India are genuine and that these attract serious attention. He also expressed his feelings to do away with the age old rules & regulations pertaining to ham radio in India.

It is interesting to note that amateur radio is getting more recognition as an educational tool in electronics as well as a valuable service to the community.

#### PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, our spy on the ionosphere, has the following to say: The sunspot number varied very little over the past week. On Thursday it was 44,3 as compared with last week's 31,0. It is expected that it may rise somewhat to a possible peak over the week end - although it cannot be predicted with certainty. Over the past week sun activity was exceptionally low - just one solitary spot on the whole surface of the sun! There was just a possibility of coronal mass inflow towards the earth on 24 and 25 December with accompanied stormy conditions. DX conditions are the weakest that I have experienced over the last ten years.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

1 January - Straight Key night on the OSCARS; 23 January - President's net; 12 February - RTA lecture at the NARC at 10:00; 9 April - SARL AGM; 14 May - Submit synopsis of proposed papers for AMSATCON2005; 31 March - Submit final papers for AMSATCON2005.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX